

MAERTENS, et al.  
Appl. No. 09/851,138  
April 18, 2005

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Amend the claims as follows.

Claims 1-62. (Canceled)

63. (Currently Amended) An isolated HCV polynucleic acid consisting of a sequence which codes an HCV protein, said polynucleic acid being selected ~~which is chosen~~ from the group consisting of:

- (i) the nucleotide sequence ~~comprising~~ consisting of SEQ ID NO:51,
- (ii) a nucleotide sequence comprising at least 60 up to 447 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:51 and
- (iii) the complement of the polynucleic acid of (i) or (ii).

Claim 64. (Canceled)

65. (Currently Amended) An isolated HCV polynucleic acid which is selected from:

- (i) a polynucleic acid sequence consisting of a sequence encoding an HCV polyprotein ~~comprising~~ consisting of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 52, 138, 155, 174, and 190,
- (iii) or the complement of the polynucleic acid of (i).

66. (Currently Amended) A recombinant polypeptide encoded by a polynucleic

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acid according to claim 63 or claim 65 ~~to any of claims 63 to 65~~.

67. (Currently Amended) A method for production of a recombinant polypeptide, comprising:

-transformation of an appropriate cellular host with a recombinant vector, in which a polynucleic acid according to claim 63 or claim 65 ~~to any of claims 63 to 65~~ has been inserted under the control of the appropriate regulatory elements, the polynucleic acid thus being an insert,

-culturing said transformed cellular host under conditions enabling the expression of said insert, and

-harvesting said polypeptide.

68. (Currently Amended) A recombinant expression vector comprising a polynucleic acid according to claim 63 or claim 65 ~~any of claims 63 to 65~~ operably linked to prokaryotic, eukaryotic or viral transcription and translation control elements.

69. (Previously Presented) An isolated host cell transformed with a recombinant vector according to claim 68.

70. (Currently Amended) An isolated peptide encoded by a polynucleic acid according to claim 65 ~~any of claims 64 to 65~~.